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LB 1211, 1309

speaking to this on this amendment, but Senator Beutler had handed out his comments, and...or, the sheet that, actually I had done last week, and I want to...I told Senator Bromm that I was not going to be able to support this bill last week. And the handout that you have is my point. And I worked hard on this, at least I was involved, and those that did work hard on this, and that had attended many meetings, and I think this is a very vital bill. In fact, I'm signed onto the bill, and I think it should be done. But until I see how the LB 1309, our budget bills, go tomorrow, and the revenue bills go next week, to me this is impossible to do. There is some requests in there, estimated in the long sheet, the one that's...of \$5.5 million. That money does come out of state General Fund over the next two years. We're going to be asked to budget that. And it...there are some uncertainties, at this point, as to what the state obligations will be, but it's generally thought that we'll be putting in quite a bit of money up front, and then lesser. But if you look across that sheet, the total is \$20 million over the next 10 years. But the first one up front is \$5 million. And, I don't know what comments are going to be tomorrow, there's nothing filed on LB 1309, but I suspect that there will be. And many of you have indicated in here, we want to cut more. And it makes no sense to me to cut more, more, more, which, that's the path we're on, and then turn around and add \$5.5 million to the future budget. I just can't see doing it that way, no matter how vital this is. And I've said many, many times before, the only way you really cut government is to not add new programs. Which we've done in the last few years. Here's a chance to stop adding new programs. And I just...as vital as I think that this is, it has an impact on...say it's \$87 million, and the state puts in \$20 million, that means there's \$60 million-plus property taxes, in general, going to be demanded over the next several years. And I realize that most government...local entities want this, and are willing to do so. But until I see a resolution on our budget situation, here over the next few days, and frankly, see some willingness to step up to the plate to do some of the things we're going to have to do. And, I really didn't want to get into the budget, but the way we're headed, without the LB 775 surcharge, and without any cigarette tax, or even a modest cigarette tax, something less than \$40 million, not only will the Governor have to make his cuts back to